

Taking Care of the Land, Water, and Air

Caring for our environment is important for the future of the world. In order to accomplish this task, we must improve the way we use our natural resources.

First, it is essential to conserve the land that we have, for land is needed for the growth of trees and crops. One way people can help protect the forest land is by using fewer paper products, such as replacing paper towels with cloth napkins. Another idea is to recycle paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum products which would decrease the number of landfills needed to store trash. In addition, business owners could allow more employees to work from home, and stores could offer discounts to people who shop on-line, resulting in the destruction of fewer trees to build offices and stores, decreasing energy consumption, and decreasing the number of roads needed. Furthermore, the government could encourage states to develop environmentally friendly public transportation systems, such as a mono-rail which would be built over land, and help with the cost of operating this system.

A second natural resource which we must improve is air quality. Using an environmentally friendly public transportation system, such as the mono-rail, would decrease carbon emissions, improve air quality, and decrease the rate of global warming. Also, the government could encourage the use of green fuels, such as vegetable oil, in cars and homes as opposed to using fossil fuels by providing financial incentives to car manufacturers and engineers to develop cars and heating units that use alternative fuels as well as by providing tax breaks to consumers who purchase alternative fuel cars or home heating units. Furthermore, restaurant owners could give their used vegetable oil to consumers to use for fuel which would reduce the amount of discarded, used vegetable

oil. Plus, faith groups around the world could unite in a plant a tree program which would entail distributing trees to families to plant in their own yards to help save our planet and improve air quality.

A third resource which we have to conserve is water. One idea to help with this effort is to distribute a rationed amount of water to households monthly. Another idea is for DHEC to establish a Buck for a Bucket campaign. With this campaign, DHEC staff would sell buckets to use for the collection of rain water which would be recycled to water vegetation. The money from bucket sales could be used to develop additional water recycling options, such as recycling rain for use in sprinkler systems and in home and office coolant systems as well as purifying and recycling sewage treatment water for use in homes and businesses. Also, public restrooms at state facilities could offer the option of composting toilets, resulting in less clean water being flushed down the toilet. Plus, NASA could create water in space at the space lab and send it to Earth.

Working together to conserve our natural resources can benefit our lives as well as the lives of future generations. It is essential that we use our resources wisely.